

## **Rx510 APPLIED FIRE EFFECTS**

**April 4 – 8, 2005**

**Tucson, Arizona**

### **Commit Statements thru Tuesday April 5, 2005**

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- For the most part interior Alaskan Fuels are w/in historical variation. Last summer 6.5 million acres burned, which is not excessive. The Fire Management options w/emphasis on “Limited” suppression option maintains intact eco-systems. That being said in light of fairly extensive research conducted in AK concerning climate shift – would it be appropriate to suppress more fires in interior black spruce. Current models anticipate desert function w/in a century. What will succession be? If I burn today will hardwoods come back or will grass dominate?
  - Acres of accomplishment – what a pain in the ass. Black is Black. Why no “credit” and funding for natural ignition.
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- I am committed to ...
    1. Building strong partnerships and coalitions surrounding/related to the Rx Fire and Fuels program.
    2. Seeking out the Traditional Ecological knowledge and Cultural Environmental Management Practices. Specifically reaching out/seeking elders who still retain this critical information.
    3. Constructing “the story of fire” to use as a tool for public education and outreach.
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- More Public Meeting/Education on Rx Fire Program. (Support)
  - Consider TEK more when looking at Fire History/Occurrence
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- I commit to spending time each week to read new publications pertaining to fire ecology and fire effects.
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- I hope to encourage other resource staff to attend Rx510 et.al. In an effort to collectively move along with fire use in what would undoubtedly be a stronger, more comprehensive program.

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Commitment Plan: To develop a Fire Use Public Education Plan.

- Get with the Forest Interp. Team and help them develop a program to educate the public why we do Fire Use and what to expect as far as smoke.
- Get with the P.I.O. (Forest) and the Counties Public Health Department and get info to the public on effects of smoke on human health.
- Set up Field trips to Fire Use sites while fire is active.
- Use local Radio Stations and newspapers to remind people of potential Fire Use Fires before, during and after Lightning Storms.

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- I will commit to better understand the historical perspective of my home unit in respect to fuels management.

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- Commit to proactively interact/collaborate with the public/special interest groups/news media to promote a greater social understanding and acceptance of wildland fuel management.
  - Commit to research USFS historic records to understand natural historic condition on home district.

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- Try to use info learned from the social monitoring talk to help units be more proactive in their smoke management programs and to build social monitoring into wildland fire use planning better.
  - Let John Cissel know of Mexican spotted owl/wood rat/Rx Fire study in New Mexico
  - Start digging out old photographic evidence from websites in Alan Taylor's lesson plan.

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- I will contact with tribal representatives and invite them into our fire planning processes.

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- Include in strategic plan outreach section on education product that more clearly demonstrates fire as a landscape process and a management tool.
  - Take a more in depth look at public use of resources and the relationship to fire management.

## **Commit Statements thru Wednesday April 6, 2005**

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- Increase understanding of social issues involved w/fire mgmt within Dept.
  - Increase awareness of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> order fire effects w/Dept.
  - Invest Native American pre-settlement use of fire in the Lake States.
  - Discuss treatment strategies w/Rx Burn Team
  - FRCC non federal land
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What I will commit to:

- Work to greater extent with our public on the impacts that will or could be experienced with (from) our own large burns.
  - Work with native groups on the possible benefits of our landscape burns, for cultural goods and services.
  - Monitoring: Leave a history of what we have done for our replacements. What has worked, what has not.
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I am committed to:

- Standardizing inventory/monitoring methods and becoming a data steward. I would like the data we gather today to be useful to land managers of the future. Keep up with monitoring/analysis.
  - Searching for and reading information specific to or applicable to my area.
    - Kevin's Ryan's charts – bark thickness/time to tissue mortality by species.
    - Rx burning/slash/root of rot of conifers
    - Lewis and Clark Journals/our area
    - Carefully read fire history study recently done for our area even though it seems inadequate and probably inaccurate may be useful.
  - Establish landscape level FRCC for a veg type in our area.
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- I am committed to use either FRCC or Fire Severity in one form or another in our Fuels and Fire Mgmt Planning process. I really liked what Bernie showed us and am going to look at this process a bit closer for our next Fuels Fire Mgmt Plan.
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- I am committing myself to include Aspen Treatment for Restoration Projects on both the Blackfeet Reservation and Rocky Boys Reservation; provided the tribes are on board with these types of projects.
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- I am committed to finishing projects all the way through. (Referring to specific tasks that I start and then get distracted from completing).
- I am committed to always remaining a “student of fire.”

## **Commit Statements thru Thursday April 7, 2005**

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- Work at developing dept wide basic monitoring.
  - Get to know FIREMON
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- To implement a fire program that is ecologically sound, technically correct, and socially acceptable.
  - To pay more attention to monitoring program to develop a strong and effective monitoring system.
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- I will commit to establishing better inter-agency relationships and cooperative projects with surrounding jurisdictions.
  - I commit to continue to evaluate and monitor my Rx burn and fuels treatment projects and carry it out for the long-term with better documentation.
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- I would like to commit to finishing my burn plan that is a 90% finished but seems to be put on the back burner due to all the other commitment I have as a Captain.
  - I will keep in pursuit of a fuels position and further knowledge of prescribed and wildfire.
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- I am committing myself to take the information presented here at this course regarding fuels planning and project monitoring to my home unit and more importantly disseminate this information to the tribes and agencies in my area.
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I am committed to:

- Research the effects of Indian burning in my local area.
  - To obtain local fire history to help in determining local reference conditions. (old photographic evidence)
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- Monitoring treatment areas using a program that is consistent and can be replicated in order that future managers may use the work accomplished prior to their tenure to continue to improve our collective knowledge.
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- I am going to commit to helping our internal (agency) specialists that don't understand the role of fire, better understand. I will give them literature, actually initiate a good conversation and bring them to a project during and post burn to see the effects.

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- I am going to commit to understanding the full spectrum of fire effects on the vegetation and ecosystem that I am applying fire to. I will make sure I am thinking about all the resources available and utilize all references I can.

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- I am committed to re-evaluate our forests monitoring protocol (if there is one). And form a new outlook regarding answering needed questions re: Rx fire. This will help transform some negative opinions and arguments we have internally by having facts.

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- I commit to stressing the importance of fire grained scale on the landscape when considering management/treatments.

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- I commit to developing an appropriate monitoring plan for our fuels reduction projects (pre and post)

- I also commit to putting a few scientific papers in my Red bag and IA bag for the slower shifts.

- I also commit to putting more energy into working to accomplish burning for cultural needs of the Native Americans in our area.

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To plan and implement fire mgmt in the appropriate ecological, social, and cultural context, I commit to:

- Initiate and hold regular field trips and meetings with Division fuels staff and provide critical review of treatment objectives and monitoring plans.
- Communicate with resource staff and scientists to better understand and integrate into fuels plans appropriate research and resource monitoring.
- Facilitate regular discussions to use the Adaptive Mgmt process.

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- Push the issue of having better GIS layers to allow better quicker analysis for fire and fuels. (Need a current accessible library of GIS layers)
  - Work more in depth with the Ecosystem Mgt. Team on our Forest to identify Firesheds better in our program of work so we know where we really need to be working with Landscape Scale burning.

## **Commit Statements Friday April 8, 2005**

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- I commit to more fire effect monitoring.
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- Improve understanding and consideration of historical condition in planning effects.
  - Improve monitoring implementation and record keeping.
  - Improve community collaboration in planning and implementation.
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- To go out with the fire effects monitor to get on the job training with plot installation and reading and to brush upon my plant/tree id skills.
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- Leadership →step up and show the way.
  - Mentorship →teach and guide
  - Communication →share the information, knowledge, and ideas
  - Collaboration →bring the sides together
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- I commit to developing an appropriate Monitoring plan for (at least) my fuels projects. This will include researching best sampling methods, having a large enough sample size and collecting data at the correct times. To yield analysis that means something and will have a positive impact in our adaptive management practices.
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- I'm going to work with my fuels officer and the district fire staff to develop a monitoring plan for all fuels treatments performed on the district. With the fuels officer we will be focused on how to monitor the changes in condition class. I will present firemon to the staff as one of the options. Also we will continue to use the plots that we set up with JoAnn Fites.
  - I will continue to build our relationships with our cooperators the public and the fire safe council in order to make the Urban interface a fire safe place to live.
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- Research social monitoring and implement research non-fire disturbances and hopefully implement into my TFM final project.
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- Becoming more active in the monitoring program in order to prepare presentations that are able to present our effects upon residual (desired vegetation) and habitat and using available technology in those presentations.

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- In addition to building collaborative partnerships to protect the 13 communities in the Upper Yukon Zone. I commit to sending a letter to the Borough Mayor. Fairbanks was threatened by fire, people are scared, a commission was convened. Whether constructive lessons were learned remains to be seen. Rich Minnich's presentations comparing Baja and Southern California gives compelling reasons not to exclude fire.
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- Support the fuels program with knowledge program with knowledge and communicate with open mind and actively commit to monitoring projects.
  - Personal involvement in interdisciplinary teams, understand the process of interdisciplinary teams, support and make efforts to have interdisciplinary participate in Rx burns and Fire ecology courses such as M580, Rx510.
  - Participate in ID teams that are currently in process.
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- One of the most interesting subjects during the past week involved Native American historical burning. Plans are to work closely with the forest analysts to dig up as much information as possible for the one that I work in – Colorado Plateau.
  - The other subject was Avian Fire Effects. Focus has always been on MIS + T+E. This session has spread information in the bird world.
  - One other is to get a copy of the NPS monitoring handbook and possibly use it to assist the districts in developing a better monitoring program.
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- To better document the conditions under which we implemented projects. Better document the implementation methods and to better document the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> order fire effects for the knowledge of the future fire managers in the area.
  - Commit to having discussions with the other disciplines within the agency to better understand their mission and to help them understand the mission of fire management.
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- Leave a better history for those that follow through monitoring and better documentation.
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I am committed to

- Continually reviewing our fire program to new information and research to develop an ecologically sound program that also reduce risk or unwanted fire effects.
- Develop a history of how management has adapted over time at Lava Beds so future Fire Management will know what has guided the program, what assumptions have been made so that future management can fill in knowledge gaps.

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- To get more involved with the fuels planning on my District.
  - Get involved with the fire use planning
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- Researching historical fire regimes in the Castle Rock area.
  - Work closely with the resource area and ologists in developing a treatment plan for the castle rock Doug Fir Units.
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- As a Burn Boss I'll pay closer attention to the prescription written in the burn plan and how the burn will ignite and how the ignition pattern/burn pattern may affect the second order fire effects.
  - Come back to the burn and do a walk through to see if I have applied the burn pattern accordingly to the prescription and see what second order fire effects/resource management objectives have not/have been met.
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- I'm committed to determining local reference condition and desired future condition for the units I work on.
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- I need to go home and start a monitoring program based on past knowledge and current habitat issues. This will allow the fire and ologist programs to talk better and show results to nay sayers and regulations so that we can do more work on tuff/sensitive ground.
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- I think the most important aspect of the course that I can use at my home unit is in the area of fire severity and its uses for fuels treatment planning. I am going to look out at our old large fires, their severity, and direction of speed then reconstruct the HR Veg layer which the fire burned in and use that for planning purposes.
  - I am also committed to implementing FIREMON in our Region. I already have the protocols identified for our area, but must have not been able to get any Regional backing or agency interest.
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- Monitoring and burning more @ a landscape level.



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- Work with ecologist within agency to get a better understanding of the monitoring program goals and objectives. Then carry this forward into the interagency community to promote a consistent and collaborative monitoring and prescribed fire program.
  - Along with this work on interacting with all of the various systems i.e. landfire, firemon, vegetation mapping, fuel mapping, fire history, ecotones, FPA, NFPORS, etc into a workable interagency system. As illustrated in this course, a lot of different things, methods applications, data collection going on, but very little interagency and interagency consistency. The challenge is to pull all this together into some form of a workable system. All the kings men need to put Humpty Dumpty back together.
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- Utilize many of the ways I learned here of determining reference condition.
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- I would like to go to each of the areas where we have scheduled burns and establish photo points. I know we don't have any at this time and feel that this would be a very worth while exercise. I will work towards getting buy off from my supervisor to allow me to do this. I feel I now have a better ability to make a sound agreement.
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- Focus on monitoring post fire effects – long term, not just 1-2 years out.
  - Revisit treatment area, maintenance is important yet after we did not return to areas once treated.
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- I am committed to developing more of a public awareness program for our district from the presentation on social monitoring.
  - The presentation dealt with mainly smoke and Rx fire, but also there needs to be more awareness directed towards commercial thinning the need to restore stand densities to historic condition which isn't just a thin from below. In some instances Rx Fire may not be applicable due to a number of possible reasons and it is possible to emulate fire effects through timber sales.
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- I commit to working more w/our county commissioners and local steering committee to prioritize fuel rx projects.
  - I will work more closely w/our archeologist and tribal liaison to better understand the role of Native Peoples on the landscape.
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- I would like to commit to more time to quality discussion among fire folks, ologists, and silviculturists concerning fire (any kind) its influence on the landscape. The work environment (i.e. workload) in which I operate makes this more difficult than I would like.

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- I am going to take R. Minnich's ideas – research on patch dynamics in chaparral and apply it to several planning units through Rx fire and monitor and confinement strategy in areas that have recently burned. I will carry this out beginning this season and develop a program to monitor this proposal for the next 10 years.
  - I found the community protection projects of the San Juan and Prescott groups very interesting. The cooperative efforts of multi-agencies were encouraging and the methods and strategy was applicable to my management area. I plan to take these ideas home and would like to use their success stories to use as case studies in my area.
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- I commit to facilitating a monitoring plan.
  - I commit to learning more specifics about the long term fire history of my units.
  - I commit to facilitating a better understanding of our reference conditions.
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- I would like to explore the probability of having Bernie Bahro or someone else to a Fireshed analysis for the home unit. It's the best way I'm aware of for determining priority, timing, and type of treatment for a management area. I'm unsure of the reception the concept will receive, but it's needed to maximize the use of a limited budget.
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- Need more HRV info, especially patch size.
- Need to clarify "existing condition" for social acceptance of fire and smoke; contract a survey?
  - Rx Fire
  - WFU
  - Wildland Fire
- Turn my fire education specialist on to the Banana Slug String Band.
- Make sure my wildlife Biologist is aware of the Birds and Burns Network.
- Double check w/our JIHI group to see if they have contingency fencing plan for aspen treatments. (in the event of heavy browse)
- Is our monitoring being put into FIREMON? (check w/Diane)
- Set up and implement dead and live fuel moisture monitoring program on the zone; samples every 2 weeks starting pre-green up through end of fall burning.

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- To understand the history of the forest and to learn more about where the District is going and why. To help to develop more of a monitoring program to help the people after me to understand the reasons for what we have done and why. To work closer with other functions in order to meet all objectives.
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Something that you are not doing now that I would be willing to work on when I return home.

- Work with the fuels AFMO and develop a system for monitoring. How data will be collected and stored for the future for all people to use. Access to info.
  - Try to apply new ideas in the Aspen communities. Determine the need and prioritize treatment areas.
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- Put more effort into working relationships with the ologist types and specialist to achieve multiple objectives on Landscape type treatments. (We need to get away from us and them attitudes and remember we are doing our jobs to “care for the land and serve the people”)
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- I am committed to advocating fire use fires in my district. We are blessed with the perfect place for the fire use: ponderosa pine that regenerates prolifically, no mistletoe, well-roaded, smallish communities that support management (though fire might be tougher to accept than selling sticks). I’ve not been an ardent supporter of Rx Fire, because results have not been good, but I believe with more practice that will improve and that will help make the case for fire use.
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- I think I need to go and visit with our local air quality board and talk with them about smoke management and what they would like to see in my smoke management plan.
  - Also, I would like to find out their concerns when it comes to putting fire on the ground and smoke in the air.
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- My commitment will be to champion the cause for and to help implement a monitoring program for Rx fire projects on the district. In addition I will attempt to instill the importance of monitoring into the next generation of Rx fire managers.
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- I will commit to work closer with specialists while developing projects.
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- I would like to attempt and succeed at how to work better with resource staff at the home unit.
  - I would like to create a minimum and maximum number of plots per acre with our forester. We get UTM's and maps from him currently and take the tree plot data that is asked and his response is always "we don't know what is out there" I am extremely tired of this statement and am going to try working it out with him.
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- 4/5/05 More photo plots of current stands and units, to validate current stand status.
  - Include public earlier in pre-planning of prescribed fire.
  - 4/6/05 Help push fire use at home unit,
  - 4/8/05 Become more competent w/computer monitoring.
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- As a suppression person (100% funded by suppression \$) I usually get handed a burn plan with directions to implement it. I perform as a burn boss, then usually don't see the burn again. Questions on results usually go unanswered. Therefore...
    - I am going to take a more active part in the planning process, my job doesn't allow time to be more involved in the process.
    - Make a strong effort to re-visit each burn I'm a Burn Boss on , the following year and then every couple years to see the results for myself and re-evaluate what I did and how the prescription worked.
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I will

- Check into FIREMON, assess which inventory/monitoring modules will work for our program.
- Assess FEAT's GIS crosswalk and organize a data structure for our program.
- Get all our fuels folks to FIREMON and/or FFI training.
- Develop an adaptive inventory/monitoring program that meets the requirements of the National Fire Plan, but is also understood and useful to fire, fuels, and resource specialists in our area.
- Become a data steward.

I will try to:

- Get resource folks more involved with monitoring, especially long-term monitoring.
- Get resource folks to FIREMON and/or FFI training.
- Open dialog regarding legacy data and how to get it accessible to other resources.